

Eugenics Society as to the slow improvement which must be expected from the Brock Report recommendations and as to the urgent need for discovering contraceptives more suited to the very poor. My idea is that abortion and sterilization should be made available to any parent with two children, and that every efficient woman in all but the poorest classes should be encouraged to have at least three children. Any nation which adopted it would benefit economically as well as eugenically, and the more big ones adopting it the better would be the prospect for world peace. It might well arise for discussion if all the Governments consented to inform the nutrition committee of the League of Nations how much additional food their peoples would need in order to attain the committee's standard.

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Positive Eugenics by Restraint

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—It is a great disappointment to find that Mr. Fyson's theory (that a struggle for survival goes on among the sperms in the epididymis) has brought forth no comments in the REVIEW. I had allowed myself the hope that some competent authority would disperse the cloud which casts such a dark, unscientific shadow upon my district. I but take pen in default, and ask a question.

Is it reasonable to suppose that, by prolonged restraint, a male might produce a single sperm—tadpole great—which could contain such genetic ingredients that it might father an entirely new brand of Homo?

C. USHER.

St. Mary Cray,
Kent.

***After reading Mr. Usher's letter we came by chance on the following paragraph in *Adventures before Birth*, by Jean Rostand, translated by Dr. Joseph Needham (Gollancz, 1936): "There does not appear to be, as some have thought, any selective competition among the spermatozoa, and we have no authority for thinking that the egg-cell mates with the best of them. This is not like the nuptial flight of the bees, where the male capable of flying the highest and most vigorously will be the one most worthy of reproducing. Anyway, if there was such selection among the spermatozoa it would not be of much benefit to the population for there is no reason why the most resistant and most alert spermatozoon should contain the best collection of chromosomes."

Teeth of Mental Defectives

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—Permit me to correct some figures, in the notice given by you in your last issue (page 151), regarding my *Inquiry into the Oral Anatomy of Mental Defectives* (Dental Record, July 1936). The figures as given refer only to dental caries and pyorrhoea and not to abnormalities—as classified by me.

These latter stand in the following ratios:

Prehistorics, 6.20 percentage rate of abnormalities.

Normal Controls, 10.40 percentage rate of abnormalities.

Three Defective groups, 28.77 percentage rate of abnormalities.

The eugenic value of this inquiry is to be seen in the verifiable "abnormality" difference between the varying classes.

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